

Draft Minutes of the Michigan Women's Commission Meeting
April 13, 2015 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Van Andel Research Institute, 333 Bostwick Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Present:

Commissioners

Chair Brook Thompson	Vice Chair Chris Etienne	Bobbie Gaunt
Krista Haroutunian	Kathleen Vogelsang	Meg Derrer
Cathleen Knauf	Janice Nearon	Deidre Lambert-Bounds
Joanne Dawley	Jay Kommareddi	Mary Whiteford

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director

Ex-Officios and Liaisons:

Mary McLellan(MDCR), Ruth Okun,(LARA); Tammy Flynn (TIA), Monica Yesh(MSP), Wendy Fitzner(MDEQ), Marchan Darby (M DTMB). Participating by conference phone: Patty Cantu (M DOE), Denise Stork-Phillips(M HHS), Melissa Castro(Treasury). Others present included Mary Drew and Colleen Pero (Attorney General), Jordan Hoyer, Jan Peabody and Diane Trombley

Absent

Commissioners Alyssa Martina (participated by conference phone), Renee Haley (participated by conference phone), Carol Zimmer (excused)

Call to Order:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) Chair Thompson introduced Dr. Jana Hall, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chief Operations Officer, Van Andel Institute, who welcomed the Commission to the Van Andel Research Institute. See <http://www.vai.org/>
- 3) Commissioner Vogelsang introduced Dr. Cindy Miranti, Ph.D. who discussed the challenges of women choosing a career in the STEM field and the opportunities provided by WISER (Women in Science, Education and Research), an ongoing program at the Van Andel Institute.
- 4) Executive Director Avery introduced Colleen Pero from the Attorney General's office, the Project Manager for the new standing Human Trafficking Commission, housed in the Department of the Attorney General. She explained the various issues that will be considered by the new Commission, which will also apply for grant funding in the near future. See http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-60857_67980---,00.html
- 5) Executive Director Avery introduced Mary Drew of the Attorney General's office who described the Attorney General's school anti-bullying initiative, entitled OK2SAY. It is a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. See <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say>
- 6) Chair Thompson called for Advisory and Special Committee reports:
 - A) Commissioner Kommareddi reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking group;
 - B) Vice Chair Etienne reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards.
 - C) Chair Thompson reported that the Women Veterans group met with a West Michigan group. The woman veteran survey's raw data is being analyzed by a Data Analyst, with hopes that survey results can soon be published.

7) Executive Director Avery reported that Commissioner Nearon had been nominated for an Athena Award by the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce and that Commissioner Kommareddi will receive the Dr. Clement Alfred Humanitarian Award from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds had participated in a panel at the U.S. Army TACOM LCMC Warren facility for a celebration of Women's History Month.

8) Executive Director Avery reported that the Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference, held April 3 at Central Michigan University was very successful. 150 young women registered. Commissioners Etienne and Whiteford attended and helped at this year's conference.

9) Chair Thompson announced that since Elizabeth Thompson, Program Director, was on medical leave, the October, 2014 and January, 2015 meeting minutes would be approved at the August meeting.

10). Patty Cantu invited everyone to the MDOE 'Breaking Traditions' event on May 13th Wendy Fitzner invited everyone to MDEQ-sponsored activities on Earth Day, April 22nd. Monica Yesh, MSP, reported on a recruiting event in Detroit, and emphasized that the MSP are actively recruiting women and minorities to consider a career in law enforcement.

The next Commission meeting is on Monday, August 10, 2015 in Sault Ste. Marie. Details regarding the specific location will be announced shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Thompson, Chair